



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

FAQ for Montana Home Schools

1. What is the definition of home school?

A home school is schooling of a child by that child's parent or guardian in the parent or guardian's own home.

2. Does the state of Montana consider a home-school student to be a full-time student?

Yes, for the years that he/she is registered.

3. Is he/she legally a home-school student if the parent did not register with the County Superintendent?

They are not a home schooled student if they are not registered. They would be considered a drop out or truant depending on the student(s) age and grade completion.

4. How do I register my child for home school?

You need to register with the County Superintendent in the county in which the home school is located.

5. Would the County Superintendent or the parent be the “school official?”

The parent would be the school official if the home school is registered with the County Superintendent.

6. Can I issue my child a home-school diploma?

Anyone can issue a diploma; however, most institutions of higher education will require a diploma issued by an accredited school as proof of having completed high school.

7. Will the U.S. Military accept a home-school diploma?

No.

8. If I put my child back in public school, who decides in which grade he/she will be placed?

The school district decides the grade the child will be placed in per MCA 20-5-110. If the parents/guardian disagree with the decision, they can appeal to the school board.

9. Can my child get into college with a home-school education?

A student's acceptance into college is contingent on his/her score on a college entrance exam and or specific requirements of the college or university.

10. My neighbor/relative/acquaintance is home schooling their child but the child is way behind his/her peers, can the OPI get involved?

No, the OPI has no jurisdiction over home schools.

11. Does the OPI provide books or other material for home-schooled students?

No.

12. Are home-school students eligible for drivers' education through the public school system?

Yes.

13. Are home-school students eligible for public school activities such as sports and band?

Public schools are under no obligation to include home-schooled students' but may if they choose.

14. Can my home-schooled child take classes through the Montana Digital Academy?

Only public schools may enroll students in Montana's Digital Academy. Contact the public school in the district in which you reside to determine enrollment policy of the school.

15. Is my home-schooled child eligible for Federal Programs?

Each spring, school districts are obligated to contact the private/nonpublic schools and offer them the chance to participate in federally funded programs. In no case is money given to a home school. The County Superintendent or school district administrator will explain the various programs that are available for each district and how a home school may participate.

For more information contact:

Lindy Miller by telephone (406) 444-6774 or by email at lindmiller@mt.gov